



REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 7, 2006 has been received and reviewed. Claims 16 are in the application. Claims 1-5 and 7-16 are hereby amended to place them in better form for allowance.

All claims stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Ohkoda (EP 1059168). The rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration and allowance of the claims as amended is requested for the following reasons.

Applicant has provided ink jet printing apparatus for producing edge-to-edge prints wherein over sprayed ink drops that are released slightly beyond the edges of the print medium are carried away by a constant airstream. As claimed, the airstream is produced with a direction and force such that the drops are inhibited from clinging to any edge of the print medium and from migrating to the underside of the print medium. Independent claims 1, 8 and 13-16 clearly set forth these features.

Ohkoda discloses a printer wherein ink drops are over sprayed beyond the lateral edges of a recording medium to black out the edges of medical transparencies. The recording medium is held on a support that does not extend quite to the lateral edge of the medium, so that the ink drop over spray does not foul the support.

In the embodiment of Fig. 13, Ohkoda provides a cover 101 to contain moisture from a humidifier 107. Because of the containment, there is a potential problem that a contained ink mist would cause a stain. So that the mist is not allowed to float in the air, Ohkoda provides fans 103 and 105 in order to exhaust the mist. The exhaust is not disclosed as having any effect on the ink drop over spray; only on the mist.

The Examiner's statement of what is disclosed by Ohkoda does not reflect an understanding of the reference. Ohkoda fails to disclose an air flow generator adapted to generate an airstream with direction and force such that ink drops that are released beyond the edges of a received print medium are carried away from the print medium to prevent the drops from clinging to any edge of the print medium. The air flow of Ohkoda is disclosed as sufficient to exhaust an ink mist from the recording head, but this would be insufficient to have any meaningful effect on printing droplet over spray.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 8 and 13-16 are not anticipated by Ohkoda. Nor are these claims rendered obvious by the reference. Claims 2-7 and 9-12 depend from, and are therefore allowable with, the independent claims discussed above.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this communication to Eastman Kodak Company Deposit Account No. 05-0225. *A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark G. Bocchetti", is written over a horizontal line.

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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.